"केन्द्रीय सरकार के विचार में आवेदक को पासपोर्ट अथवा यात्रा संबंधी दस्तावेज जारी करना जनहित में नहीं होगा" ।

**Backlog in Seventh Five Year Plan**

2808. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a heavy blacklog in reaching the Seventh Five Year Plan target in regard to MNP designed to improve the standard of living in rural areas and reduce regional disparities in development;

(b) if so, causes for such a slow progress; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the pace of progress to achieve the target ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) The Seventh Plan targets of different components of Minimum Needs Programme have been achieved proportionately to a satisfactory level during first three years of the Seventh Five Year Plan. However, there have been shortfalls under a few programmes in certain States.

(b) The main causes for slow progress under some of the programmes *inter-alia* are under utilisation of funds, delays in acquisition of land for infrastructure like rural roads, primary health centres and community health centres, lack of trained medical and paramedical manpower, preference of farmers for diesel pumpsets as against power energised pumpsets due to unreliability of power supply, adoption of liberal norms for construction assistance in rural housing in some States.

(c) States have been advised to utilise the earmarked MNP funds allocated for different programmes fully and to improve the pace of progress for achieving the plan targets.

**Exploration of Ocean Wealth**

2809. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some ocean areas are given to foreign companies for exploration of ocean wealth; and

(b) if so, the full details about the number of cases, names of the foreign companies, terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b) The exploration of ocean wealth includes a wide range of living and non-living resources. As far as the Department of Ocean Development is concerned, no ocean area is being explored with the help of foreign companies. The entire survey and exploration is being done by the Indian scientists using indigenous technology. The Ministry of Agriculture (Fisheries) and Geological Survey of India also do not get the exploration of sea resources done through foreign companies.

Some contracts, however, have been awarded by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas under the third round of offshore, exploration to foreign oil companies for exploration of hydrocarbons. The details about the number of cases, names of the foreign companies, terms and conditions thereof are given in the enclosed statement.

**Statement**

| Name of block for which contract signed | Name of foreign oil company signing the contract | Date of signing the contract |
|---|---|---|
| 1. KG-OS-I | Chevron International Ltd. and Texaco Exploration India Inc. | 16-12-87 |
| 2. KG-OS-VII | Do. | 16-12-87 |
| 3. P-OS-II | Do. | 16-12-87 |
| 4. MN-OS-I | Do. | 18-4-88 |
| 5. KG-OS-IV | International Petroleum (Berumuda) Ltd. | 17-12-87 |
| 6. KK-OS-VI | BHP Petroleum (India) Inc. | 19-2-88 |
| 7. KK-OS-II | Shell India Production Development B.V. | 4-6-88 |
| 8. KK-OS-IV | Do. | 4-6-88 |
| 9. KG-OS-V | Amoco India Petroleum Co. | 22-7-88 |

The salient features of these contracts are :

1. Foreign oil companies will explore for petroleum at their own risk and cost.

2. If there is a commercial discovery, Oil & Natural Gas Commission/Oil India Ltd. will have the option to participate forty per cent in development and production.

3. If ONGC OIL decides to participate, it will contribute forty per cent of the development and production costs and the remaining sixty per cent will be borne by the foreign oil companies.

4. ONGC/OIL will be entitled to the share of petroleum produce corresponding to its participation.

5. The share of foreign oil companies of the oil will be available to the Government at the international market price till India reaches self-sufficiency.

6. After the recovery of the costs the contractor will share petroleum with the Government on a sliding scale basis. Government's share of the petroleum will increase as the economics of the project improves.

7. The contractor will pay tax at the rate of fifty per cent on its profits.

8. ONGC/OIL will not contribute to the exploration costs. but it will be associated with the working right of the foreign companies from the beginning.

9. The entire data acquired by the foreign companies will be available to ONGC/OIL.

10. The assets acquired for the permanent use in petroleum operations would become ONGC/OIL's property once the cost recovery for such assets is claimed by the foreign oil companies without any further payment by ONGC/OIL.